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# Letters

## Ignoring the 'terror network' run by United States

For years now Arnaud "Rug Trader" de Borchgrave has been harping on the alleged terror network headquartered in the Kremlin, with tentacles lacing through the East Bloc nations, Syria, Libya, Iran, Cuba, and now Nicaragua. This notion, in the "Age of Reagan," has been very profitable for Mr. de Borchgrave and his fellow travelers (Robert Moss, Michael Ledeen, and Claire Sterling), but it conveniently ignores the far more extensive terror network traceable to the United States.

This "terror network" (never identified as such) includes:

- The CIA's direct involvement in the overthrow of legitimate (but not pliant to U.S. will) governments in Iran and Guatemala and the maintenance of security forces that ruled by torture, fear, and mass murder.
- The CIA's indirect involvement in the overthrow of the legitimate governments of Chile and Indonesia.
- The CIA's assassination attempts on Patrice Lumumba, prime minister of the Congo (successful), Fidel Castro (unsuccessful, though not from lack of trying), Rafael Trujillo (indirectly successful), and Salvador Allende Gossens (indirectly successful).
- The CIA's organizing and training of a Chilean network of terrorists responsible for bombings and assassinations, including those of Chilean Gen. Carlos Prats (1974), Orlando Letelier and Roni Moffitt (1976), South African Robert Smit

and his wife (1977), and the unsuccessful attempt on the life of Bernardo Leighton and his wife (1975).

- The Alliance For Progress and Operation Condor, through which the security and intelligence apparatus in Latin America used "disappearances," torture, and systematic extermination of political dissidents.

- U.S. support for Anastasio Somoza, whose war against the Sandinistas claimed 50,000 Nicaraguans, a good number from the 500-pound bombs dropped on the celebrating Nicaraguans as the National Guard flew out.

- U.S. support for the Salvadoran military, which through army units or on contract to wealthy Salvadorans has killed 40,000 people over the past six years, including one archbishop, a dozen priests, four Dutch journalists, seven Americans (three nuns, one lay missionary, one reporter, and two labor advisers), and the entire populations of some towns (e.g., Mozote).

- Extermination of a significant slice of East Timor by U.S. guns.

- Israeli behavior in occupied territories and Lebanon (20,000 killed between 1967 and 1982, as opposed to the 350 killed by the PLO), notably in Sabra and Shatila.

- South Africa's behavior toward its black (majority) populace and neighbors.

- The downing of a Libyan civilian jet by Israel in 1973 (106 dead), the bombing of a Cuban plane by Omega

7 in 1976 (73 dead) and an Angolan plane by UNITA in 1983 (127 dead).

- The Phoenix program that, according to its director William Colby, killed 20,587 "suspected" National Liberation Front cadres (South Vietnam puts the number at about 40,000).

- The extensive bombing of Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam by B-52s, etc.

These acts, I cannot emphasize enough, are not called terrorist, but "regrettable," "necessary," "harsh," often "tragic," sometimes "authoritarian," and at worst "repressive." I could go on listing more examples, but that has been done in *The Political Economy of Human Rights* by Noam Chomsky and Edward Herman and the *Real Terror Network* by Edward Herman and, as well as the reports of Amnesty International and Americas Watch.

Of course, there is a difference that I have not mentioned. When Salvadoran rightists murdered Archbishop Oscar Romero, they did so in the name of democracy and capitalism. When the KGB allegedly tried to kill Pope John Paul II (a case that is now falling apart, revealing a right-wing conspiracy), they were doing so in the name of totalitarianism and socialism.

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